



Mental Health Update

September 8, 2006

Sharing the Vermont Experience with Integrated Treatment for Clients with Co-occurring Disorders

Last week, the integrated treatment team from the Division of Mental Health and a representative from Vermont Psychiatric Survivors attended the third annual conference for recipients of SAMHSA Evidence-based Practices Training and Evaluation Grants. This was an opportunity for us to share our experiences in implementing evidence-based treatment practices for consumers with severe and persistent mental illnesses not only with fellow grantees but with representatives of professional and consumer groups from 34 other states including co-occurring disorders and transformation state infrastructure grantees (COSIG and TSIG), national advocacy groups and federal partner agencies. In Vermont, the grant has funded the implementation of integrated mental health and substance use treatment for consumers served in all of our Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) Programs.

The theme of this year's conference was *Lessons Learned: Embedding Evidence-based Practices in Statewide Transformation*. Our staff presented on how Vermont has used a continuing quality improvement framework to move the implementation forward and on the use of a Medicaid case rate system to finance CRT services. There was particular interest in the Vermont experience since we were the only state to have used this grant to make the evidence-based practice part of 'business as usual' in all programs statewide. As Kathryn Power, Director of the Center for Mental Health Services, stressed in her presentation, the need now is to move from pilot projects to statewide implementations of practices that are known to produce the best outcomes.

FUTURES PROJECT

Phase 1 CON Process

We received the first set of questions from BISHCA on the VSH Futures Conceptual Certificate of Need application. There are 160 questions. BISHCA may have additional questions before ruling the application complete. The questions are posted on the Futures website.

VSH Employees' Work Group

Members of the VSH Employees Work Group completed their report to the Futures Advisory Committee. The report serves to inform the Advisory Committee of options for successfully transitioning the VSH classified workforce to a new inpatient care system. It will be presented to the Advisory Committee on September 18th. The report is posted on the website.

Burlington Site Review Group

At the third site review meeting on Tuesday, September 12th, Fletcher Allen staff will respond to the input that local residents provided two weeks ago when site options for an inpatient psychiatric program on the Medical Center campus were presented. They also will discuss their master facility planning process to provide a larger context for facilities replacement beyond the present need to plan for inpatient psychiatry. The meeting is in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building, UVM, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Vermont State Hospital Census

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 50 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 50.